



ANNUAL REPORT FY23



AT THE FOREFRONT OF KIDS' MEDICINE[®]
UChicago Medicine
Comer Children's



AT THE FOREFRONT
UChicago
Medicine

Mission Statement

ECHO-Chicago aims to establish and cultivate a robust knowledge network that builds community-based primary care capacity to reduce the serious health disparities affecting children and adults in underserved communities.



From left: Daniel Johnson, MD, Kanika Mittal, Dawn Croach, Isa Rodriguez, Karen Lee, Sebastian Otero, Morgan Hamilton, Matt Louzon, Patrick Gower

LETTER FROM THE TEAM

We are proud of our FY23 accomplishments and milestones and are happy to share these with you in this annual report. This year was transformative and bittersweet as we said goodbye to several team members - Marielle Ogle, Sandra Tilmon, and Kathryn West - as they moved on to further their professional careers here at the University of Chicago and elsewhere. We thank them for their contributions to ECHO-Chicago over the years. We also welcomed new team members. Sebastian Otero joined us as Research Manager, and Matthew Louzon and Morgan Hamilton joined us as Project Coordinators. We look forward to the amazing work we will do together.

ECHO-Chicago partners with programs and organizations across Illinois and beyond to bring advanced training to community healthcare providers and health professionals working with patients and individuals who may be underserved, underinsured, and/or underrepresented. We are so proud of the impact that we achieve together. We documented in our paper, "Impact of an Urban Project ECHO: Safety-Net Clinician Self-Efficacy Across Conditions," published this year in the *American Journal of Preventative Medicine*, ECHO-Chicago training significantly improves provider self-efficacy, often surpassing the threshold of clinical competency. That is, after an ECHO-Chicago training, providers are confident that they have sufficient skills to practice efficiently and effectively.

FY23 saw us reach some important milestones in our mission to democratize knowledge to improve health in under-resourced communities. We surpassed 4,400 unique participants representing more than 1,200 different organizations across 46 states and 9 countries. This year alone saw 610 series participants from 322 clinical sites of care across 284 different zip codes.

In addition to the COVID-19 work we continued to do in FY23, we launched two brand-new ECHO series - Vision Impairment and Eye Health in Primary Care and Hepatitis C (HCV) in Pregnancy and Infants. Our University of Chicago HCV expert, Dr. Andrew Aronsohn, has now led over 39 HCV-related cohorts. More information about the HCV in Pregnancy and Infants series can be found later in this report.

A special thanks to all our partners for their contributions and support in helping us achieve all of these accomplishments in FY23. Thank you for reading our report and we look forward to a successful FY24!

-The ECHO-Chicago Team

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The Numbers (FY11-FY23)

43,177

TRAINING HOURS

6,207

SERIES PARTICIPANTS

1,683

CLINICAL SITES OF CARE

89%

PARTICIPANTS SHOWED IMPROVEMENT IN SELF-EFFICACY

104

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS (Full list [here](#))

[Check out our external dashboard for an in-depth look at our numbers.](#)



FY23 HIGHLIGHTS

Impact of an Urban Project ECHO: Safety-Net Clinician Self-Efficacy Across Conditions

"To mitigate the lack of specialty healthcare, Project ECHO (Extension for Community Health Outcomes) trains community-based primary care clinicians to better prevent the progression of, manage, and treat common health conditions... This paper examines self-efficacy among ECHO-Chicago participants across 11 clinical series, including a novel use of qualitative themes from self-efficacy questions... All clinical series achieved statistically significant improvement in self-efficacy, and most had a large effect size... Prescribers had a significantly greater increase in their self-efficacy scores than non-prescribers."

[Read the full paper in the *American Journal of Preventative Medicine*](#)

New Milestones Reached



**3100th
CASE STUDY**



**6000th
PARTICIPANT**



**1200th
PARTNER HEALTH CENTER**

A wide-angle photograph of the Chicago skyline, featuring the Willis Tower and other skyscrapers. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent red band across the middle. The text 'FY23 FINANCIALS' is centered in white on this band, with a white horizontal line underneath the word 'FINANCIALS'.

FY23 FINANCIALS

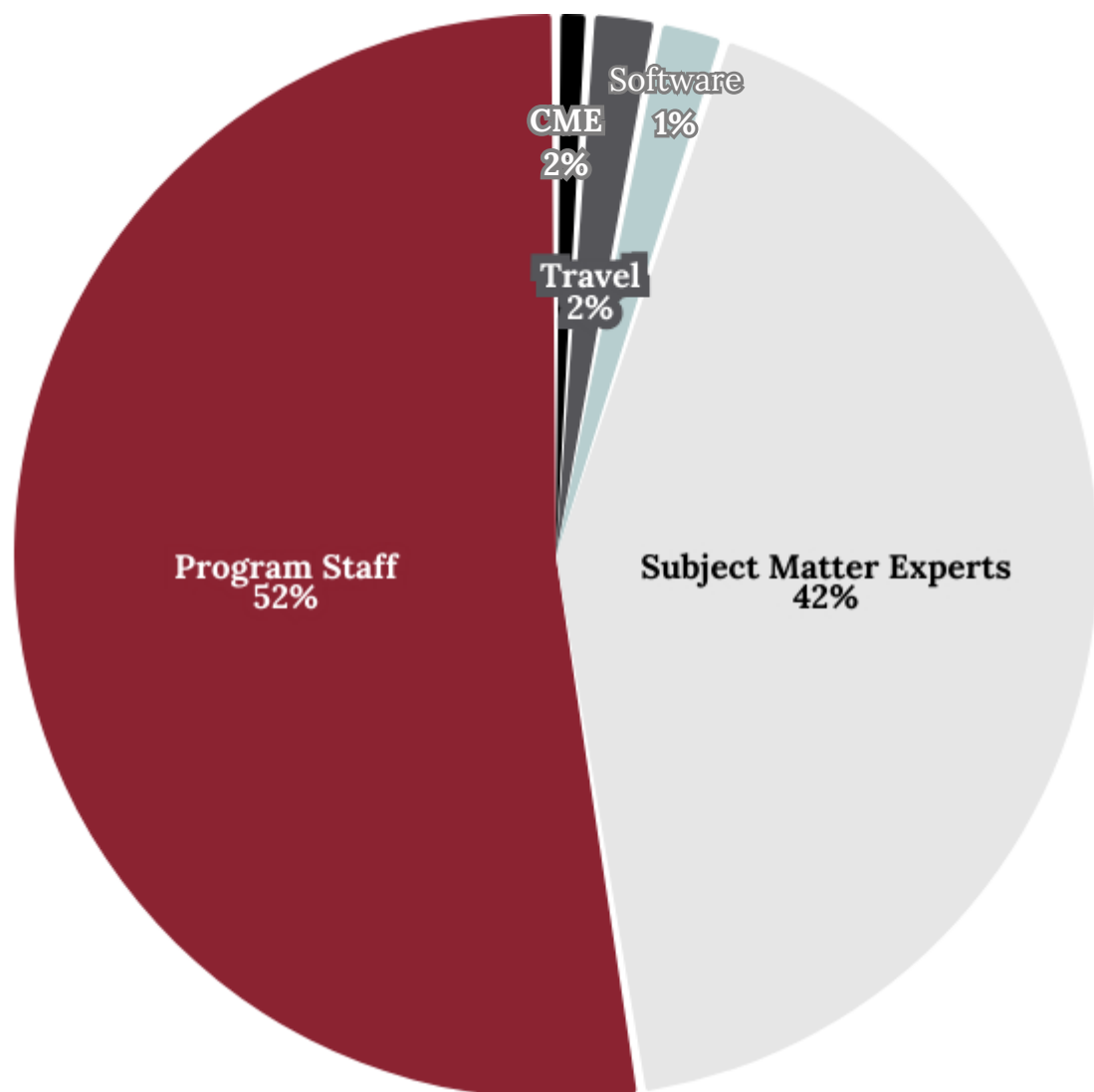
Funders for FY23

- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
- AmeriCare
- Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago
- Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
- Grant Healthcare Foundation
- Health Resources & Service Administration
- Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
- Illinois Department of Public Health
- Prevent Blindness America
- Dr. Petra Rissman and Randy O. Rissman
- University Hospitals
- University of Chicago Department of Pediatrics
- University of Chicago Provost's Global Faculty Awards
- Urban Health Initiative – University of Chicago

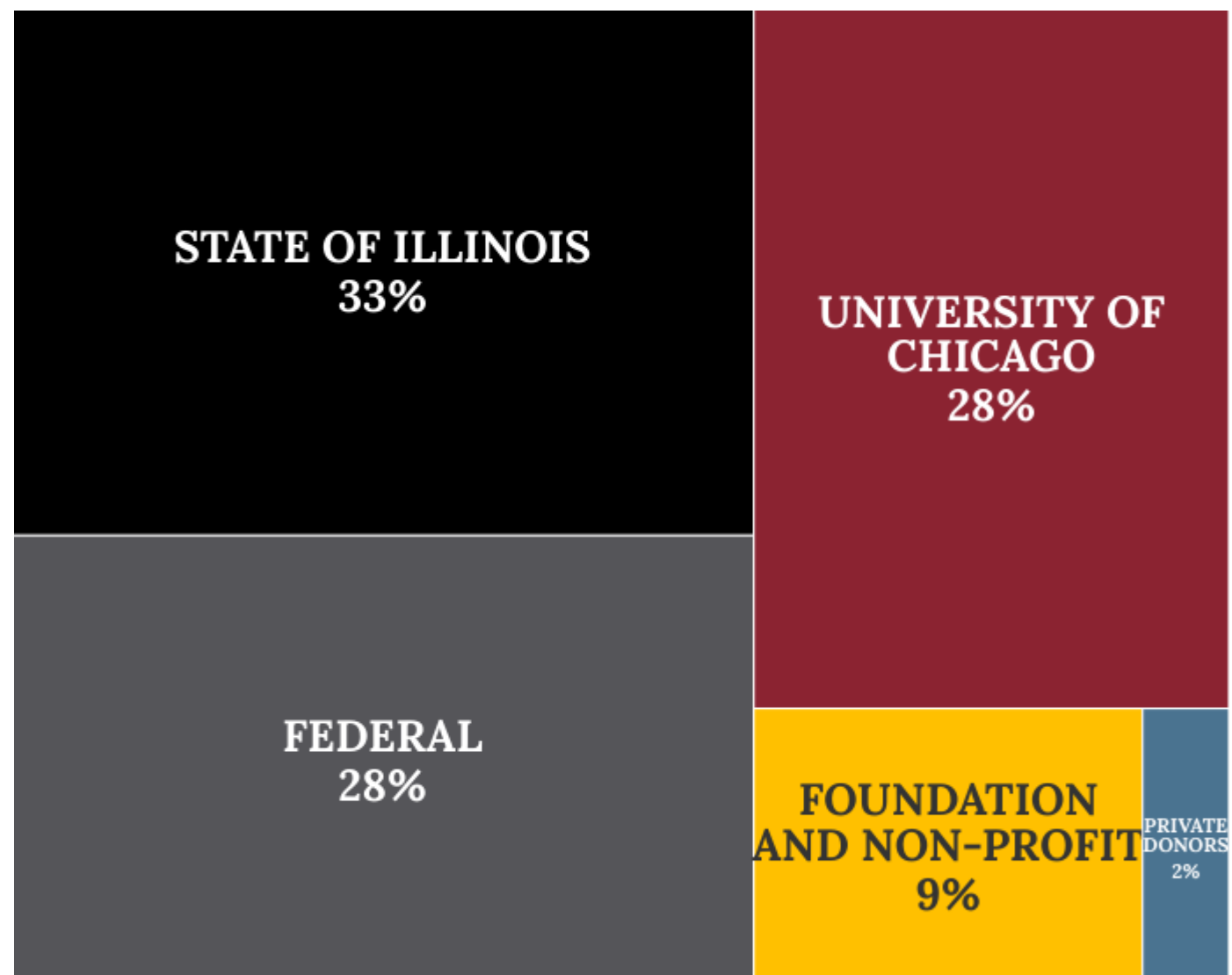
**ECHO-Chicago extends a sincere thank you to all of our FY23 funders.
Your support allows our programs to continue.**

[Donate to ECHO-Chicago](#)

Expenditures



Funding Resources





FY23 PARTICIPATION

The Numbers

NON-COVID SERIES

243	182
UNIQUE PARTICIPANTS	CASES PRESENTED
93	180
ORGANIZATIONS	FIRST TIME PARTICIPANTS

COVID SERIES

377	46
UNIQUE PARTICIPANTS	SESSIONS
251	158
ORGANIZATIONS	FIRST TIME PARTICIPANTS

Participation by Profession



Total number of participants by role across all FY23 series. Mouse over to see total numbers of each profession.
*Includes roles such as optometrists, case managers, etc.

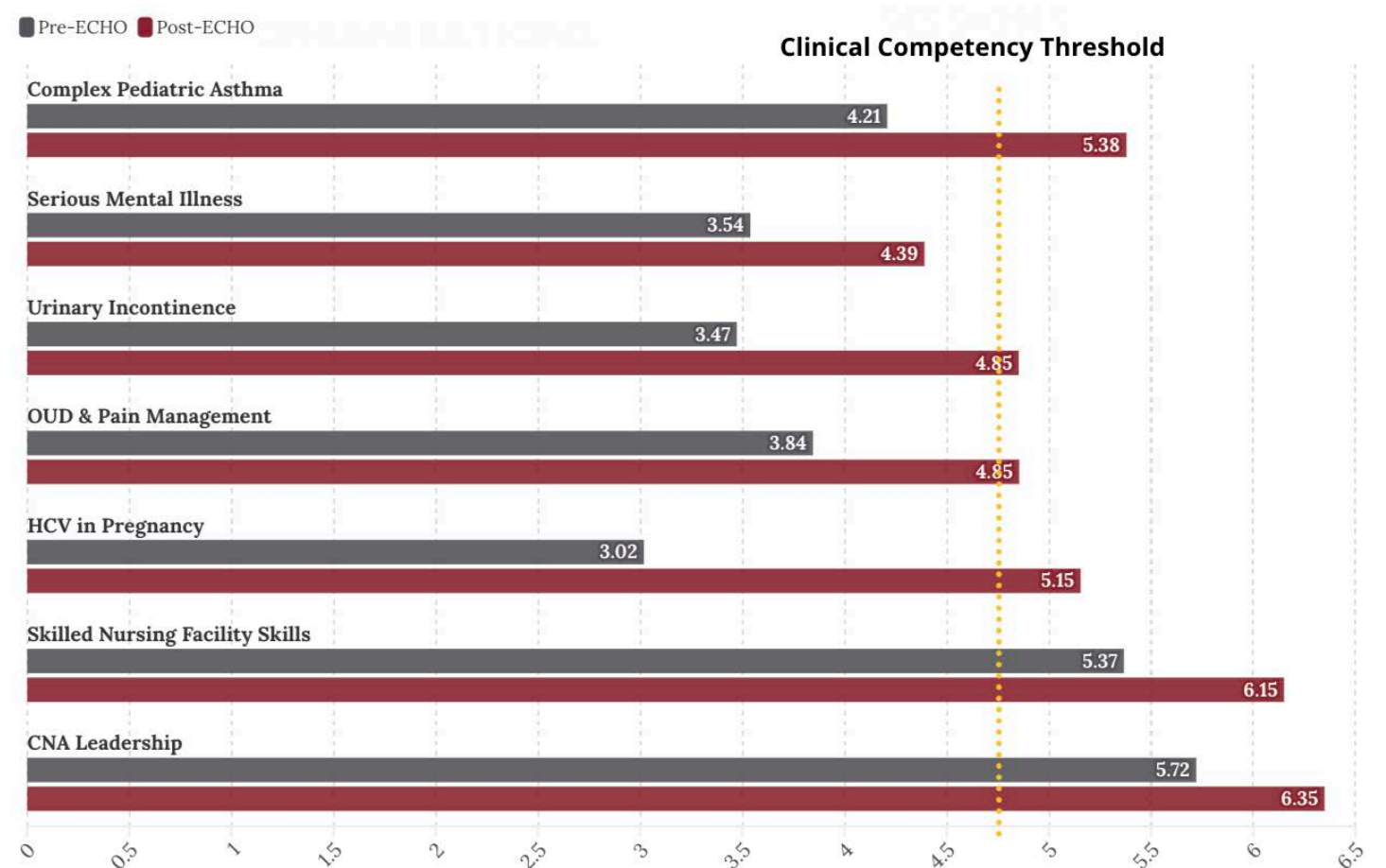
SELF-EFFICACY

Self-efficacy is a self-reported measure of a participant's confidence in their own skills and abilities to tackle clinical challenges.

At ECHO-Chicago, we ask our participants to rate their skills on a scale from 1 ("no skills at all") to 7 ("expert; able to teach others") prior to and after attending our series.

After each series, we aim to see an increase in self-efficacy to the next level (e.g. if a participant rates their skills abilities as 4 prior to the series, our aim is that they rate their skills as 5 after the series).

Our goal is to have participants report a self-efficacy level of above 4.7 which is where we define clinical competency in a subject area.



FY23 Average SE Increase:
16%



Showed Improvement:
84%



Leveled Up:
66%





FY23
SERIES

JULIUS
ROSENWALD
HALL

Since 2010, ECHO-Chicago's series portfolio has included over 36 topic areas. Each year, we operate a subset of these based on available resources and community needs. In the box below, is a listing of the series we offered in FY23. You may visit our [website](#) to view all the ECHO-Chicago series topics.

Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Leadership Academy
Complex Pediatric Asthma
COVID-19 in Adult Populations
COVID-19 in Pediatric Populations
COVID-19 for Free and Charitable Clinics
Geriatrics for Primary Care Providers
Hepatitis C
Hepatitis C in Pregnancy & Infants
Pain Management & Opioid Use Disorder in Older Adults
Serious Mental Illness
SNF Staff Skills & Education Workshop
Vision Impairment and Eye Health in Primary Care
Urinary Incontinence



SERIES SPOTLIGHT

Special Project for FY23: Hepatitis C in Pregnancy & Infants in partnership with Lurie Children's Hospital and Northwestern Medicine

ECHO-Chicago partnered with Lurie Children's Hospital and Northwestern Medicine's Department of Maternal-Fetal Medicine to design and pilot this new series. With funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the team developed this series with the aim of helping providers become more competent and comfortable delivering care to hepatitis C positive pregnant people and infants. Eliminating hepatitis C (HCV) is a national and global health imperative, yet pregnant people and exposed infants have largely been excluded from this effort. Early detection and treatment of HCV can lower rates of morbidity and mortality and reduce the risk of disease progression for individual patients, in addition to getting us closer to the goal of eradicating HCV around the world.

In this 8-week pilot series, 18 providers were trained including 15 physicians, 3 nurse practitioners, and 2 physician assistants. Over the course of the series, 11 patient cases were presented by participants. Based on pre- and post-series survey data, 92% of respondents showed an increase in their self-efficacy. These promising preliminary results point to a need for this type of specialty training among community providers. We hope this work will be replicated and scaled in communities across the country.

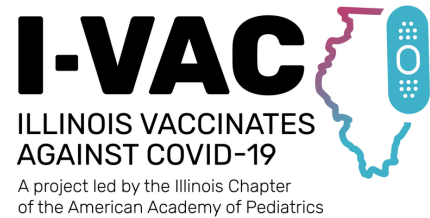


"It was an absolute pleasure to reconnect with old colleagues and meet new ones during the HCV in Pregnancy & Infants ECHO series. As usual, it was full of open dialogue, interesting case presentations and opportunity for growth. The HCV in Pregnancy & Infants series was useful in helping myself and my work colleagues learn to expand our current HCV program services to ensure equitable access to treatment for people in pregnancy, infants and children. This is my third time participating in an ECHO-Chicago hepatitis C-related series and I look forward to more opportunities in the future."
- Sara Miranda, DNP, FNP-BC, PCC Community Wellness Center

An aerial photograph of a cityscape, likely New York City, featuring a large green field with white yard lines and a red running track. The field has the number '100' visible on it. In the background, there are dense green trees and various city buildings under a clear blue sky. A semi-transparent red banner is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text 'FY23 COVID-SPECIFIC WORK'.

FY23
COVID-SPECIFIC WORK

As the pandemic pressed on, so did ECHO-Chicago's work to support primary care providers, healthcare professionals and other front-line workers to address COVID-19 at Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), safety net hospitals, free and charitable clinics (FCCs), and other community organizations in managing COVID-19 patients. Over the past year, our series evolved along with the pandemic, from addressing critical patient care issues to discussing management and vaccination. As vaccination became readily available there were a lot of questions around effectiveness and availability. Having a learning space for community providers and healthcare professionals was important. ECHO-Chicago remains committed to supporting community providers in working through the ongoing issues that arise from COVID-19 and long-haul COVID-19.



Funding for this project was made possible by the Office of Disease Control, through the Illinois Department of Public Health.

ECHO-Chicago continued to partner with the Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (ICAAP) and the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians (IAFP) on the state-wide Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)-funded project "Illinois Vaccinates Against COVID-19 (IVAC)." The bi-weekly ECHO Learning Collaborative sessions continued to provide much needed information around COVID-19 vaccine administration and making it a routine part of patient care in health centers across Illinois. The goal of the I-VAC project is to ensure that Illinoisians are being immunized against COVID-19 at every opportunity.



In FY23, ECHO-Chicago continued its partnership with Americares to offer COVID-19 sessions to free & charitable clinics across the nation. The series provided COVID-19 sessions on epidemiology updates, COVID-19 screening and testing, PPE, transmission, and minimizing spread. During many sessions, a guest facilitator from a free & charitable clinic discussed patient care, health disparities, and COVID-19 challenges specific to the work of free & charitable clinics and the populations they serve.



"The Americares and ECHO COVID series for Free and Charitable Clinics has been an anchoring space for me throughout the pandemic. I shared the emerging research and recommendations each month with my coworkers and patients. I enjoyed hearing from other clinic leaders about their processes, policies and challenges in COVID-19 vaccination and pandemic management. This collaboration and group learning provided me with confidence in managing the ever-changing COVID environment at the clinic."

"As a consultant on the team for this series, I have had the opportunity to help translate data and emerging knowledge into action steps for free and charitable clinics. The workflows and fact sheets I worked on with the Americares ECHO team were immediately useful in my clinic. During the first year of the pandemic, I often felt isolated as a charitable clinic, trying to implement best practices that were developed with insurance-based medical systems in mind. The Americares ECHO partnership, offered a place to absorb COVID information in a format designed specifically for our sector." - Breanna Lathrop, DNP, MPH, FNP-BC, COO, Good Samaritan Health Center

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MAIN
QUADRANGLES

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